

Hampton CITY PAGE

Your Tax Dollars at Work

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE CITY OF HAMPTON ON 1ST & 3RD THURSDAYS

Get Connected at the Hampton Public Library

According to the Census Bureau, the number two and number five top adult leisure activities in 2002 were reading books and surfing the Internet. At the Hampton Public Library, you can do both.

Along with access to thousands of books on anything from art history to fly fishing, the library also offers access to the Internet and numerous software programs including Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Publisher.

"The Internet is a gateway to a wealth of knowledge and we want to make sure that all our citizens have access to all the Internet has to offer," said Robin Carpenter, Main Library Manager.

In today's age, being techno savvy is essential for those looking for work, starting a career, changing careers or seeking an education. While it is easier to get connected to the Internet, it still takes money, a fixed residence and know-how to have your own set-up.

That's where the Hampton



Public Library steps in. The library provides space, furnishings, electricity, additional equipment, maintenance, staff assistance and training. The library, currently with 50 computer workstations, has been funded by the federal government e-rate and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to have subsidized high speed connections as well as modern equipment and software. With access to the public library, anyone can be connected to the Internet for information, business, entertainment or communication.

Use of library computers is free for all library patrons, and for those who need additional assistance in mastering the Internet or individual software programs, the Main Library offers several free computer classes

throughout the year. Trained staff is also available on hand to answer patrons' questions.

"We believe there is a need in the community for increased computer access and we are trying the best we can to meet that demand," Carpenter said.

Visiting the Internet Learning Lab at the Main Library on a Wednesday morning appears to illustrate that need. Only one computer in this lab is empty. Downstairs, the computer workstations in the Children's Department are empty, but by the time school closes for the day, it will be buzzing with

dozens of students.

The Children's Department computers contain several learning programs, educational games and story programs.

The workstations are monitored by a library staff member, providing a safe computer use environment.

Soon, the library will expand access to the Internet by setting up wireless "hot spots" in the Main Library so that people with laptops can access the Internet anywhere in the building. The library will also be adding more computers to its workstations in the future.

Convention Center Update



Set to open in early 2005, construction of the Hampton Roads Convention Center is well under way. An aerial view of construction taken in February 2004 is pictured above.

Your Input is Needed

The General Assembly session will soon be coming to a close and there are still a number of important issues being discussed, most notably the State budget. Concerns over funding for education, transportation,

social services, and other issues are being addressed. Your opinion is extremely important to legislators on these issues.

To follow this issues and voice your concerns visit <http://legis.state.va.us/> and

call (800) 889-0229 to let legislators know your position. You can remain anonymous when you call and operators will forward your comments to your legislators for you.

DID YOU KNOW...

That the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded Hampton the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. For more information on Hampton's budget plan or capital improvement plan visit <http://www.hampton.gov/budget/>.

NEWS YOU CAN USE...

DELIVERED TO YOUR COMPUTER FOR FREE! Choose the topics you are interested in. Subscribe at: www.eneews.hampton.gov/



8 Hampton Neighborhood Commission Meeting

7:00 p.m., Ruppert Sargent Building, 1 Franklin Street
For more information call the Neighborhood Office at 727-6460.



10 Hampton City Council Meeting

7:30 p.m., Council Chambers (8th Floor, City Hall). Also telecast on the City channel, TV-47.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Stay Tuned ... The Children's International Children's Festival

will take place on Saturday, April 17 in Mill Point Park in Downtown Hampton. For more information visit www.hampton.gov or call 311 (727-8311 outside of Hampton or from a cell phone).

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